

Guidelines for Cadaver Use and Care

Working with and studying human material requires respect, sensitivity and safe procedures. Following are suggestions to help you understand the AGA's expectations and your responsibilities.

Ordering: Orders for specimens should be placed a **minimum** of 30 days before expected delivery. Orders are filled on a first come, first served basis contingent on donations received. We require official institutional Purchase Orders before delivery can be scheduled. An Estimate of Charges will be given. Material charges do change so it is advisable to check with staff on current pricing. Delivery is included with the material charge for deliveries within 25 miles of the AGA facility.. There is an additional charge for deliveries more than 25 miles from the facility.

Security: It is recommended that the cadaver and associated biological material be kept behind two (2) locked doors with access limited to course faculty and instructors. Only students enrolled in the course should have access to the lab and only with the prior permission of the course instructor.

Identification: It is **critical** that the plastic QR and metal AGA identification tags remain with the cadaver at all times. These tags are our only way to track the cadaver from your facility to the crematory to eventual return of the ashes to the family. The AGA provides the name, age and cause of death of the cadaver on the Delivery Sheet. The course director may share this information with his/her students.

Digital Images: A separate AGA policy covers the creation and use of digital images of AGA supplied materials. Please refer to that policy for guidance on such images.

Care of Cadaver and Tissues: All tissues removed from the cadaver (skin, adipose tissue, etc.) should be collected and placed in a receptacle with the cadaver. Many institutions use plastic bags, identified with the corresponding cadaver tag number, to collect this material. At NO time should any tissue or organs from the cadaver be disposed of in the general lab garbage receptacles or be removed from the lab.

To ensure longevity, keep the specimen moist and wrapped whenever it is not in use. Re-wet the tissues regularly. We recommend a product like Bio-Perm. It is mold inhibiting, relatively inexpensive and can be purchased through the Sargent Welch website. Before and after use, the cadaver should be moistened with the solution. Then wrap sheets moistened with a Bio-Perm type solution around the exposed parts. The entire body should then be wrapped in heavy plastic to retain moisture, and then finally zipped up in the provided body bag. Cadavers tend to dry out more quickly when this procedure is not followed and leaving the body exposed unnecessarily will definitely shorten its lifespan.

https://www.sargentwelch.com/store/catalog/product.jsp?catalog_number=WL95001

Laboratory Safety: Standard laboratory safety procedures must be followed. Given that our embalming formula contains formaldehyde and phenol, physical contact with skin and clothing

should be avoided. Students should wear long-sleeved shirts and pants – no shorts, cut-offs or tank tops. As fluid can drip onto the floor, students should wear shoes that cover the feet – no flip flops or sandals. The institution may want to consider offering students gowns and/or scrubs for use during class as well as safety glasses/goggles and disposable booties.

Return of Remains: At least 7 business days before an institution desires a pickup of remains, it must supply the following to the AGA Office Manager:

- Donor name
- AGA ID Number
- remains to be retrieved (whole body or parts of body)
- requested date of retrieval

After verification of such information, the AGA Office Manager will notify the institution by email of the proposed date for retrieval.

If the AGA has provided a whole body, the complete remains of the whole body must be returned. The AGA will not accept returns of parts of whole bodies. On the retrieval date, the remains must be:

- contained in one package per AGA ID Number;
- delivered in a package where the AGA tags bearing the AGA ID Number and QR code are attached and easily viewed.

Where the AGA has supplied parts of bodies, the remains of such parts shall be contained in one package that prominently displays its AGA ID Number.

The AGA will not pick up the remains of any whole body or parts not meeting the above requirements.

General: The AGA is only able to function due to the selfless generosity of our donors. The donors receive no compensation and donate with the intent to give back and support the education of future generations. They deserve our respect and gratitude.

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